

Message Text

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DIA WASHDC

USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 6728

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, NATO, UR

SUBJECT: PRAVDA IMPLIES CLOSER WARSAW PACT FOREIGN POLICY
COOPERATION

REF: MOSCOW 5114

1. SUMMARY. AN AUTHORITATIVE PRAVDA EDITORIAL ON THE OCCASION
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OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WARSAW PACT INDICATES THAT A

SOVIET PUSH IS UNDERWAY TO ACHIEVE EVEN CLOSER FOREIGN POLICY COORDINATION AMONG WARSAW PACT MEMBERS. ARTICLES BY PACT COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF YAKUBOVSKIY (IZVESTIYA MAY 13) AND PACT CHIEF OF STAFF SHTEMENKO (KRASNAYA ZVEZDA MAY 14) ECHO THE SAME LINE, IN EFFECT GIVING PUBLIC VOICE TO A CAMPAIGN FIRST MENTIONED TO US HERE IN APRIL BY THE ROMANIANS (REFTEL). THE ARTICLES AND THE EDITORIAL SINGLE OUT THE POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (PCC) FOR PARTICULAR PRAISE AS A MECHANISM FOR COORDINATING FOREIGN POLICY, THROUGH THEY MAKE NO SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS ON AN INCREASE IN THE FREQUENCY OF PACT SUMMITS. (GROMYKO'S COMMENTS ON WARSAW PACT IN SPEECH MARCH 14, WHICH FOLLOW SIMILAR LINE, BEING REPORTED SEPTEL.) THE ARTICLES ALL CALL FOR IMPROVED DEFENSE CAPABILITY FOR THE PACT, AND YAKUBOVSKIY AND THE PRAVDA PIECE ADDRESS THE SUBJECT OF MBFR, AS DOES A FURTHER ARTICLE IN LITERNATURNAYA GAZETA. END SUMMARY.

2. ALL THREE ARTICLES CLEARLY REFLECT A DIRECTIVE TO EMPHASIZE THE FOREIGN POLICY ROLE PLAYED BY THE WARSAW PACT, ESPECIALLY THAT OF THE PCC (I.E., THE PARTY LEADER OF EACH PACT MEMBER). THE PRAVDA EDITORIAL SAYS THAT THE PACT "SERVES AS THE MAIN CENTER FOR THE COORDINATION OF FOREIGN POLICY" OF THE COMMUNIST STATES, AND DRAWS ATTENTION TO THE "ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT ROLE" OF THE PCC. IT CONCLUDES THAT THE WP HAS "BECOME AN ORGANIC FEATURE OF THE SOCIALIST COMMONWEALTH, EXPRESSING THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE TOWARD UNITY OF ACTION IN THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE AND SOCIALISM." YAKUBOVSKIY POINTS TO THE "LEADING ROLE" OF THE PCC IN "COMPREHENSIVE COOPERATION" OF THE "SOCIALIST" STATES, AND CALLS THE PCC A "HIGH TRIBUNAL" FROM WHICH MANY "PEACE INITIATIVES/ HAVE STEMMED AND WHICH HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE SOLUTION OF WORLD PROBLEMS. SHTEMENKO SAYS THAT "ONE OF THE MAIN GOALS OF THE (PACT) IS THE COORDINATION OF FOREIGN POLICY ACTIONS," AND THAT THE "MAIN ROLE" FOR SUCH COORDINATING ACTIVITIES BELONGS TO THE PCC, WHICH "ON A COLLEGIAL BASIS DEVELOPS THE SOLUTIONS TO FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEMS AND TO THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS RELATED TO STRENGTHENING OF DEFENSE POTENTIAL."

3. WHILE THUS STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF FOREIGN POLICY COORDINATION THROUGH THE PACT MECHANISM (AND BY IMPLICATION CALLING FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THIS MECHANISM AND EVEN CLOSER COORDINATION), THE ARTICLES ATTEMPT TO SOOTHE THE FEARS OF CONFIDENTIAL

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THOSE PACT STATES WHICH DO NOT RELISH CLOSER COORDINATION. THEY REPEATEDLY ASSERT THAT THE PACT FUNCTIONS STRICTLY ON THE BASIS OF THE RESPECT FOR INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY, AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. HOWEVER, THEY MAKE POINTED REFERENCE TO THE PAST DEFENSE OF THE PACT OF THE "GAINS OF SOCIALISM" AND ASSERT THAT IN THE FUTURE IT WILL BE ON GUARD TO DO THE SAME -- STATEMENTS WHICH ARE SURE TO RAISE THE HACKLES OF AT LEAST THE ROMANIANS.

4. ALL THREE ARTICLES OF COURSE CALL FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS IN DEFENSE CAPABILITY, BLAMING THE NEED FOR SUCH EFFORTS ON THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF NATO AND THE ABSENCE OF EFFECTIVE DISARMAMENT MEASURES. THE PRAVDA EDITORIAL AND THE YAKUBOVSKIY PIECE FOLLOW THEIR GUIDANCE ON THIS POINT SO WELL THAT THEY HAVE IDENTICAL PARAGRAPHS. YAKUBOVSKIY ALSO AL LIBS AN ATTACK ON PEKING, AND PRAVDA ADDS A SWIPE AT THE U.S. MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX.

5. THE YAKUBOVSKIY PIECE AND THE PRAVDA EDITORIAL ALSO ADDRESS MBFR. THE LATTER REASSERTS THE USUAL CONTENTION THAT THE PACT BELIEVES THAT POLITICAL DETENTE MUST BE STRENGTHENED THROUGH MILITARY DETENTE, AND ATTITUDE "WHICH DETERMINES ITS CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH" TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS. YAKUBOVSKIY ALSO CALLS ATTENTION TO THE "CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH" OF THE PACT, WHICH HE CLAIMS "IS BRINGING" "REMARKABLE SUCCESS" IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE ALSO REFERS TO THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN POLITICAL DETENTE THROUGH MILITARY DETENTE, THOUGH DOES NOT SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFY MBFR AS RECEIVING ANY PRIORITY IN THIS EFFORT.

6. A LESS AUTHORITATIVE ARTICLE IN THE MAY 14 LITERATURNAYA GAZETA, WRITTEN IN HONOR OF THE WARSAW PACT BY A PROFESSOR N. MOLCHANOV, ALSO BRIEFLY ADDRESSSES MBFR. HE ATTACKS NATO FOR ASSERTING, ON THE BASIS OF "ARBITRARY ESTIMATES," THAT THERE IS A "NECESSITY" FOR ASYMMETRIC REDUCTIONS. MOLCHANOV ALSO RESURRECTS, FOR THE FIRST MENTION IN SOVIET MEDIA IN SOME TIME, BREZHNEV'S IDEA OF DENUCLEARIZATION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN, AS WELL AS THE CREATION OF NUCLEAR FREE ZONES "ON THE EUROPEAN CONTINENT." STOESEL

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